ENDINGS

Concluding, Archiving, and Preserving Digital Projects for Long-Term Usability

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PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- Goals of the *Endings* project
- Case studies
- Initial results
  - positive
  - negative
- Our recommendations

THE ENDINGS PROJECT

How do DH projects end and where should they be archived to maintain their dynamic, interactive features?

What factors ensure the survival or precipitate the disappearance of DH projects?

CASE STUDIES

Le Mariage sous L'Ancien Régime

Dr. Claire Carlin

- https://mariage.uvic.ca/

CASE STUDIES

Map of Early Modern London

Dr. Janelle Jenstad

- https://mapoflondon.uvic.ca/

CASE STUDIES

Nxa'amxcín Database/Dictionary

Dr. Ewa Czaykowska-Higgins

- http://nflrc.hawaii.edu/ldc/ldc-vol-8-2014/

CASE STUDIES

Robert Graves' Diary

Dr. Elizabeth Grove-White

- http://spcoll.library.uvic.ca/Digit/GravesDiaryProject/home.htm

METHODOLOGY

- Constructivist grounded theory (CGT)

- Narrative inquiry

- Phenomenology

RESULTS: POSITIVE

- Institutional support, community of practice;

- Separating content, structure, and processing;

- Pan-institutional partnerships;

- Consistency in coding and markup procedures, fastidious metadata;

RESULTS: POSITIVE

- Agreements between parties for responsibility and support;

- Storing multiple versions in different places;

- Using software that is stable and easily maintained;

- Preservation to support project goals.

RESULTS: NEGATIVE

- Lack of resources;

- Lack of institutional support and integration, change in institutional leadership;

- PI leaves, project no longer accessible;

- No licensing agreement or ownership, hosting, and maintenance responsibilities are unclear;

RESULTS: NEGATIVE

- No preservation or sustainability plan;

- Fragile hosting;

- Multiple complex parts;

- Software or applications that are not easily maintained.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Use well-supported and easily flattened markup languages (e.g. XML and HTML);

- Preserve copies of the project in multiple repositories;

- Make sure any websites are crawled and dumped regularly, check the Wayback Machine, and create mirror sites;

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop a strategy for preserving non-text media;

- Consider what aspects of the project you hope to preserve, or that must be preserved;

- Agreements for data ownership, support and resources, and responsibilities for project maintenance.

CONCLUDING POINTS

Next steps for *Endings:*

- Analysis
- Toolkits
- Knowledge mobilization

THANK YOU!